

Comments on RTA memo

Para. 2: Please delete references to my initial source of information.

Para. 3: I take exception to the first statement. Consider the following:

1. If it is really GRA policy ~~is~~ for geographic research to make contributions to NIE's...then it is in this type of effort that we can contribute. It would be nice for us to be able to send up nice neat pregnant contributions of 1 or 2 paragraphs...but by the very nature of our work and methods of ~~today~~ analysis we can make really useful contributions by helping the ERA refine its estimates.

has

This ~~is~~ is not a new ~~idea~~. This branch/proposed that sort of an effort from time to time over the past 4 or 5 years... The last suggestion was ~~my~~ submitted at the time NIE 13-58 was up for consideration. And all of the suggestions were for the kind of backstopping that ~~now~~ now says they need and for which he claims there is no competency in ORR.

In other words the project could help us: IF it is done properly and IF it becomes a part of a continuing effort on our part to help ERA.

2. The project could hurt us: 1) by taking over an aspect of geographic analysis that we should have been doing, 2) by being so sloppily programmed and organized that future external research projects will be doomed, 3) by possibly fouling up the FDD ~~collection~~ *translation* efforts.

In other words, I think we have more than a friend-of-the-court interest in this. I think it is our business and ~~we~~ if we go on being neutral about matters that concern us, then we deserve to be even more ~~if~~ ignored in DD/I matters than we are now.

Para 4: ~~Our reservations could be summarized as follows:~~ Our reservations could be summarized as follows:

1. Are the people competent to do this particular job?
2. How are the results of the project to be verified? If they are to be tested through internal consistency, what degree of reliability are we to expect? Has geographic verification been considered? If so, ~~what~~ what is the competency of those who are to test the material and what are the expectations of reliability?
3. How are the ~~tabular~~ tabular results to be correlated with ~~areal~~ areal data from future projects?
4. How are the materials in FB and FDD to be used, both in translated and untranslated form? If they are not to be used, can it be shown that the project will not suffer?

Para 5: I ~~may~~ suppose it will be necessary to ~~make~~ make the gesture of the final sentence...but none of the outlines or prospectuses (prospecti?) we have seen ~~kind~~ up to now ~~make~~ permit any basis on which to say that it will in fact make a useful contribution. In my opinion, it does not, for example, answer the most critical questions ~~s~~ for M/Ag...further,